



# Primary Press

## Clouds



Clouds are puffy visions in the sky that contain ever changing looks, and their connections to weather make them fun learning choices for a preschool lesson plan. Ask the children at circle time some fun questions like:

- "Do you think we could walk on clouds?"
- "How do you think the clouds get up in the sky?"
- "Are there different kinds of clouds?"
- "What colors have you seen when you have looked at clouds?"

The answers to all of these questions will be cute and work well for a cloud display in the classroom for parents to view. You can record the answers from the children on a gigantic cloud.



Briefly discuss the different types of clouds and what they look like. Explain to children that rain and snow come from certain types of clouds. Make a homemade cloud by boiling water in a teakettle and looking for the steam that rises from the boiling water. Hold an aluminum pie pan over the steam and watch the water condense and drip off the pan like rain. Explain that this is similar to the way that water evaporates and condenses into rain.



There are many different cloud art projects. Have children stretch and pull cotton balls before they glue them onto paper to make different types of clouds. Help the children label the clouds they have created and talk about which ones mean good weather and

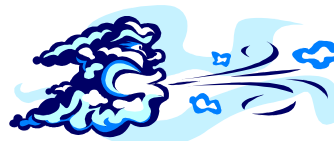
which clouds mean rain or snow. Add a small amount of school glue to shaving cream and have children spread the mixture onto paper, allow to dry, forming puffy clouds.



You can also use blue paper with a dollop of white paint, fold the paper in half and rub the sides together. Unfold the paper and have the children talk about the different shapes they see.

Make some crayon resistant clouds by giving the children a white crayon to draw clouds onto white paper. Give each child a paint brush and some blue wash, diluted paint. Ask them to paint with the blue wash over their white paper revealing the white clouds.

*(continued on page 4)*



### County of Loudoun Family Services

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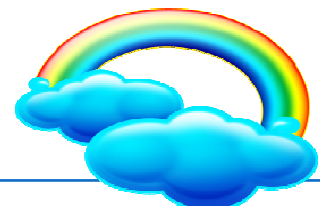


*A white puffy cloud  
Floating happily along  
Smile up at the sky*



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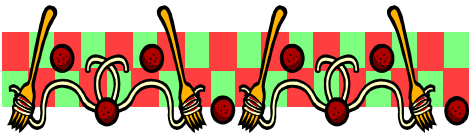
## Book Corner



### Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

By: Judi Barrett

This book is a story that an elderly grandfather tells his grandchildren about the town of Chewandswallow, where the weather comes three times a day, at breakfast, lunch, and dinner and is always food and beverages. The rain is juice and soup, the snow is ice cream and the wind brings hamburgers. Because of this phenomenon there are no grocery stores. However when floods and storms of giant food come the population is forced to leave Chewandswallow on boats made of bread, how they adapt to their new lives in the world where the sky doesn't bring food.



### The Cloud Book

By: Tomie dePalo

This book introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes and what they can tell about the coming weather changes.



### Clouds Dance

By: Thomas Locker

This is a journey across the heavens through thick cumulus clouds, wispy cirrus clouds and wide stratus clouds as they dance through every season of the year. Thomas Locker introduces young readers to the basic science of our natural world with brilliant illustrations and poetic prose.



### Looks Like Spilt Milk

By: Charles G. Shaw

The white shaped silhouetted against a blue background change on every page. Is it a squirrel, a tree, a birthday cake or just plain spilt milk? Children are kept guessing until the surprise ending while encouraging imaginative thinking.

### Clouds

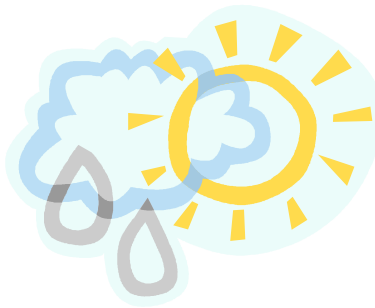
By: Marion Dane Bauer

Clouds come in many different shapes and sizes. They can be white and fluffy or dark and scary. Where do clouds come from? The answer is at your fingertips. Just open this book and read more about the wonders of clouds.

### Clouds

By: Anne Rockwell & Frane Lessac

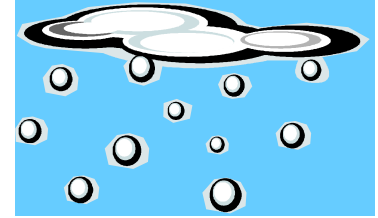
Did you ever wake up and wonder what the weather will be? Instead of turning on the TV to find out, you can just look out your window at the clouds. How do you know what types of clouds can forecast a change of weather? Read this story and find out.



### Little Cloud

By: Eric Carle

This story is about a Little Cloud who changes shapes in the form of sheep, air plane, shark, trees, rabbit, hat and a clown. Finally the Little Cloud drifts back to the other clouds. All the clouds change into one big cloud just in time for it to begin raining.



### Shapes in the Sky:

#### A Book About Clouds

By: Sherman, Josepha, Wesley and Omar

This book with wonderful illustrations and simple text explains the different kinds of clouds—cumulus, cumulonimbus, stratus, cirrus—and the type of weather they indicate.



### Fluffy, Flat and Wet: A Book about Clouds

By: Dana Meachen Rau

There nine chapters in this interesting nonfiction book. Each chapter contains two pages. One page gives fun facts about clouds and illustrations span both pages. The vocabulary, simplistic sentences and easy to read format make this a perfect book for a young reader.

# Let's Do Some Singing & Finger Plays

## When I See Clouds in the Sky

Tune: *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*

When I see clouds in the sky,  
All big and puffy and white,  
When I see clouds in the sky,  
The weather is sunny and bright.  
White clouds, white clouds,  
White clouds up in the sky.  
White clouds, white clouds,  
White clouds puffy and dry.  
When I see clouds in the sky,  
All big and solid and gray,  
When I see clouds in the sky,  
The weather is rainy all day.  
Gray clouds, gray clouds,  
Gray clouds up in the sky.  
Gray clouds, gray clouds,  
Dropping rain from up high.



## What's Floating By?

What's fluffy and white and floats up high,  
Like a pile of cotton in the sky?  
And when the wind blows hard and strong,  
What very gently floats along?  
What brings rain, what brings the snow,  
What showers down on us below?  
When you look up high in the sky,  
What is that thing you see float by?

## Cloud Rhyme

Popcorn shapes up in the sky.  
Altostratus clouds floating by.  
Scattered, wispy shapes up in the sky,  
Cirrus clouds drifting by.  
Long, flat shapes up in the sky,  
Stratus clouds moving by.  
Large, puffy shapes up in the sky,  
Cumulus clouds floating by.  
Low, dark shapes up in the sky,  
Nimbostratus clouds with rain go by.  
High, dark shapes up in the sky,  
Cumulonimbus clouds thunder by.

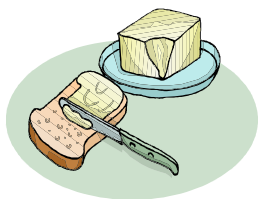
## I'm a Little Cloud

## The Clouds are Passing By

Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*

The clouds are passing by,  
The clouds are passing by,  
Heigh-ho, just watch them go,  
The clouds are passing by.  
The clouds are passing by,  
Way up in the sky.  
Sometimes fast and sometimes slow  
The clouds are passing by.

## Cooking Corner



### Eat a Cloud

Give each child a rice cake and have them use a plastic knife to spread cream cheese on their rice cake making a cloud. Enjoy!



### Rain Clouds

Have each child spread whipped cream on the bottom and all sides of the inside of their clear plastic cup. Fill the center of the cup with chocolate pudding and eat your dark rain cloud.



### Whipped Creamy Clouds

Give each child a piece of waxed paper, a plastic spoon and a large spoonful of nondairy whipped topping. Ask the children to use their spoons to create beautiful cloud shapes on their wax paper. Put the children's names on their creations. Freeze each child's cloud and serve. Yum!



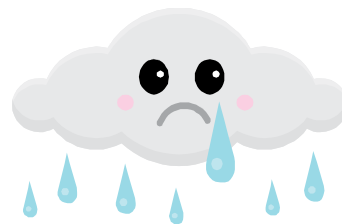
Tune: *I'm a Little Teapot*

I'm a little cloud, in the sky.  
You can find me, way up high.  
Sometimes I'm puffy and sometimes stretched out.  
I just love to float about.



## Rain Cloud Rhyme

Rain clouds, rain clouds in the sky,  
I really hope you're passing by.  
But in case you're here to stay,  
I'll just go home instead and play!



## CLOUDY

Tune: *Bingo*

Today the clouds are in the sky  
And cloudy is his name-O  
CLOUDY  
CLOUDY  
CLOUDY  
And cloudy is his name-O

## Cloud Science

*(continued from page 1)*

A cloud is a large collection of very tiny droplets of water or ice crystals. The droplets are so small and light they can float in the air. All air contains water, but near the ground it is usually in the form of a gas called water vapor.



Have children cup their hands around their mouths and exhale into their hands. Repeat this process several times, they should notice that their breath feels warm and moist. Give each child a metal spoon. Have the children hold the cool back of the spoon to their mouth and exhale. Have them repeat this several times,

what do they see? A tiny cloud will appear, these clouds are like the clouds in the sky that form when warm moist air and cool air come together.



There is water in the air! Mix up a batch of icy lemonade in a glass pitcher. Before you serve it, set out the pitcher for the children to observe. Watch as the water starts to drip down the sides of the pitcher. Ask the children where the water comes from, the answer is when warm air comes in contact with the icy cold

pitcher, water vapor condenses on the pitcher.

Make some cloud play dough.

1 cup vegetable oil

6 cups flour

1 cup water

Blue food coloring

- Add food coloring to the water.
- Put flour and oil into a large bowl.
- Slowly add the water, stirring as you pour.
- Continue mixing ingredients until there is a soft dough.
- Add a little more water or flour if necessary.
- Put the dough on the table and knead until completely blended, it will be an oily texture.



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## Primary Press

## Childcare Workshops for Providers

To register for these workshops,  
Please visit:

[www.loudoun.gov/childcareworkshop](http://www.loudoun.gov/childcareworkshop)

Workshop Registration opens on the  
15th of each month for the  
following month.

*If the 15th is on a weekend or holiday,  
then registration opens on the next business day.*